

1. BACKGROUND

The Darwin Plus 116 Wetlands Project commenced in 2020, and is a 2-year project that aims to address knowledge gaps in our understanding of Falkland Islands wetlands, with the overarching aim to develop a long-term monitoring programme that will enable us to better understand the biology, biodiversity and hydrology of our wetlands. As part of the project, we produced an indicator monitoring manual, with the aim to enable long-term monitoring of selected indicators of change in wetlands beyond the project end date. Additionally, a training session was offered to a range of organisations and government departments to ensure that monitoring capacity remains within the Islands. This report summarises the training session.

2. TRAINING SESSION

The training session with ten participants (Annex 1; Annex 2 – Figure A1) took place in the afternoon on 28th March 2022 and included a field visit to Moody Brook (Figure 1), where one of the project logger stations is located. The participants learned how to download data from the logger station, which included water level, water temperature, light levels, pH and conductivity. They had the opportunity to view the data after it was downloaded and discussed how the data can be interpreted with additional data from the weather station (Annex 2 – Figure A2).

Wetlands indicators, including the absorbance of organic matter and chlorophyll, were then explained and sampling protocols were discussed.

We provided more in-depth demonstration for two indicators, these being diatoms and invertebrates. The demonstrations included collection of diatoms from vegetation, sediment and stones (Annex 2 – Figure A3). Invertebrate collection through kick sampling was demonstrated (Annex 2 – Figures) and the sweep netting approach for still lakes and ponds was also explained. For both diatom and invertebrate collection it was stressed that the same methodology needs to be applied year-on-year so that data are comparable.

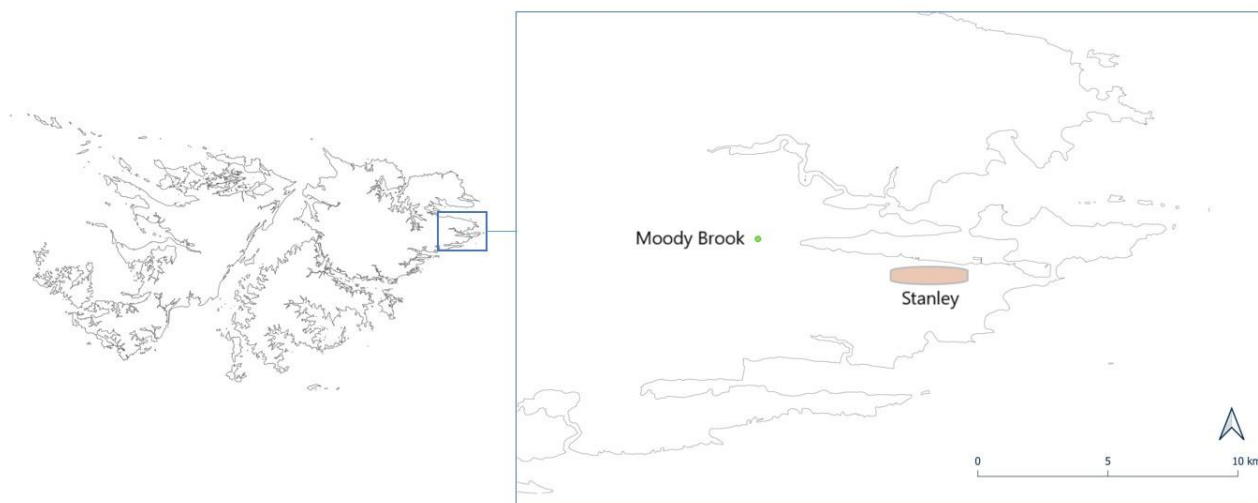


Figure 1: Location of the training session – Moody Brook logger station.

3. FEEDBACK ON TRAINING SESSION

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At the end of the session, the participants completed a feedback questionnaire with the following questions:

1. Did the training session meet your expectations? – No / a bit / yes
2. Did the training session increase your knowledge on wetlands indicator monitoring? – No / a bit / yes
3. Would you feel confident to carry on with wetlands indicator monitoring with the support of technical step-by-step protocols? – No / yes
4. Please share any other thoughts or comments.

The training session met everyone's expectations and everyone felt that their knowledge on wetlands indicator monitoring had increased. All participants felt confident that to carry on with wetlands indicator monitoring beyond the project, but two participants highlighted that access to technical step-by-step protocols would be essential for them.

Additionally, the following comments were made:

"Wasn't sure how much detail, but exceeded my expectations. Thanks."

"Fascinating and needs to continue"

"It was really interesting, thank you!"

"Very well run"

ANNEX 1 – ATTENDANCE LIST

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Name	Organisation	Position
Dave Higgins	Falklands Conservation	Peatland Biodiversity Project Manager
Grant Munro	Falklands Conservation	Sites Officer
Hannah Gatenby	Falklands Conservation	Volunteer
Emily Gilbert	FIG / Dep. of Mineral Resources	Offshore Environmental Advisor
Andy Pollard	FIG / Department of Agriculture	Agricultural Advisor
Lucy Ellis	FIG / Department of Agriculture	Assistant Agricultural Advisor
Debbie Barlow	FIG / Environment Department	Climate Change Officer
Al Baylis	SAERI	Deputy Director Science
Amy Guest	SAERI	PhD Student
Tabitha Pearman	SAERI	Marine Ecologist

ANNEX 2 – TRAINING SESSION PHOTOS

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Figure A1: Introduction to the training session.



Figure A2: Downloading logger data (left) and discussing logger data (right).



Figure A3: Diatom collection.

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Figure A4: Invertebrate collection (left) and sorting (right).